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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 14, Bible Truth 4

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### The Case of the Daring Pray-ers Acts 3-4

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*(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)*

1. The first Christians gathered together to pray. They had much to talk to God about! They praised Him for loving His people more than they deserved. They confessed their sins and thanked Him for His forgiveness through Jesus. Praise, confess, thank you. They prayed these ways.
2. But there was something else those first Christians prayed as they gathered together. They asked God to do amazing things that would bring Him GLORY. That is, they wanted others to know Him and see how great He is.
3. "Use us to show others what You're like. Help us love as You have loved us," they asked the LORD. "Do powerful things that show Jesus is God's Son. Make us bold to tell others the good news of Jesus, even when enemies hurt us. We want to bring You glory," they prayed.
4. Peter and John saw God answer these prayers, as they passed through the Temple gates one Sabbath. Sitting there on a mat was a lame man. His legs never worked. He never walked. Day after day, he was carried to the gates to beg money from people going to the Temple.
5. The lame man asked Peter and John for money as they went by, but God had something better to give this man. "I don't have money to give you," Peter said to the man, "But what I have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk!" And the man did!
6. Together, Peter, John, and the beggar man went into the Temple, with the excited man walking, leaping, and praising God. Peter and John praised God, too. God was answering their prayers to do amazing things that help people trust in Jesus.
7. "The lame man is healed!" people exclaimed and gathered around to hear what happened. "This man has been healed through Jesus, God's Son," Peter said. "Jesus died on the cross to save God's people, then He rose from the dead. Turn from your sins and trust Him as your Savior," he urged. 17.5
8. God's Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many as Peter preached, and they believed. Peter and John were so happy. But the Temple leaders were not happy at all! "Arrest Peter and John. Put them in jail. Jesus is just a fake. We must punish these Christians and stop them."
9. Soldiers put Peter and John in jail. The next morning, they were brought before the Temple leaders. "Jesus is just a fake! Stop saying God is doing amazing things through Him!" the leaders ordered Peter and John. "If you don't stop, we'll have to hurt you," they warned.
10. But Peter and John stood firm. "We won't stop TALKING about Jesus. We won't stop DOING amazing things through Jesus. He really IS the Savior! We don't care what you do to us," The leaders were amazed. There was nothing else they could do, so they let Peter and John go.
11. Peter and John found the other Christians and told them all the amazing things God had done. Together, they praised God. They asked Him for boldness to tell more people about Jesus and for power to do more amazing things in Jesus' name. They wanted to spread His glory.
12. And that just what God did, through His people, by the power of His Holy Spirit.